

Knox County **Sct**

The State of Indiana to Hyacinthe Lasselle of the Said
County, Greetings:

You are hereby Enjoined and commanded that on the first Tuesday in August now next
Ensuing, you be and appear before the honorable Thomas H. Blake at his chambers in
Vincennes and that you have with you the Bodies of Polly and James, People of Colour
now in your Possession and that you certify and make Known the day and cause of the
caption and detention of the Same Polly and James and that you then and there Submit to
and receive whatsoever the Said Thomas H. Blake President of the first Circuit, Shall
then and there determine upon concerning you in this behalf according to Law and have
then there this writ —

Witness Robert Buntin

Clerk of our Circuit Court at Vincennes

the 15th day of July in the year of
our Lord 1818

R Buntin Clerk CCKC

In obedience to the annexed writ to me directed, I do hereby humbly certify to the Hon. Thomas H. Blake, that at the time and before the coming of the said writ, Polly and Jim alias James in the same writ named, were, and are still, detained in my custody and possession, by virtue and under the following Indentures, the tenor and effect of which are as follows to wit, “Whereas, Francois Lasselle heretofore purchased me Jim, alias James, as a slave, and under the beleif [sic] that he could & of right ought to hold me as such, I have remained quietly [sic] & contentedly in the employment of his Attorney in fact Hyacinthe Lasselle until the present time, when I am taught & induced to beleive [sic] I am free — but in as much as I conceive it would be the height of ingratitude [sic] not to make a just retribution & compensation by my services for the care & attention he has bestowed upon me in my infancy. Therefore, This Indenture Witnesseth, that I the said Jim for & in consideration of the above premise, and of the stipulations & agreements herein after mentioned on the part of the said Hyacinthe Lasselle, Have put, placed & bound myself and by these presents Do put, place & bind myself as an Indented Servant to the said Hyacinthe Lasselle his heirs, Exors & Admors, with him & them to dwell & serve from the day of the date hereof until the full end & term of Four years (I now being of the age of Seventeen years) next ensuing to be fully compleat & ended; During all which time of Four years, I the said Servant my said Master his heirs, Exors & Admors shall & will well & faithfully serve in all things appertaining to the duty of a Domestic & Indented Servant. And the said Hyacinthe Lasselle for himself his heirs Exors & Admors doth hereby covenant, grant & agree to [redacted] the said Jim that he will find, provide & allow unto him during all his said term of servitude, good & wholesome meat, drink, lodging, washing & apparel, both linen & woolen, fit & convenient for such an Indented Servant both in sickness & in health; And upon the expiration of his term, he serving out his term faithfully, give unto him twenty

dollars worth of Freedom clothes. In witness whereof the said Master & Servant have, hereto set their hands & affixed their seal, at Vincennes this 16th of July AD. One thousand eight hundred & eighteen.

Signed, Sealed & acknowledged Jim (Seal)
his mark X

In presence of

E. Stout H. Lasselle (Seal)
Jas. A. Bradford

State of Indiana

Knox County —

Be it remembered that on this day the sixteenth day of July, eighteen hundred & eighteen Personally came before me the subscriber a Justice of the Peace in & for said County, the within named Jim (a boy of colour) and acknowledged the within instrument of writing to be his voluntary act & deed for the purpose, therein mentioned. In Testimony whereof I have here unto set my hand & Seal.

E. Stout (Seal)

J.P.

Whereas Hyacinthe Lasselle of the County of Knox, heretofore purchased me Polly, called Polly Strong, as a slave, and under the beleif [sic] that he could and of right ought to hold me as such, I have remained quietly [sic] & contentedly in his employment until the present time, when I am taught & induced to beleive [sic] that I am freed — but in as much as I conceive it would be the height of ingratitude not to make a just retribution & compensation by my service, for the care & attention he has bestowed upon me in my infancy & minority: Therefore, this Indenture, Witnesseth, That I Polly called Polly Strong a free woman of colour, now of the age of twenty two years, of the county of Knox & State of Indiana, for & in consideration of the above premises, and the stipulations, & agreements herein after mentioned on the part of the said Hya. Lasselle, Have put

placed & bound myself, and by these presents Do put, place & bind myself as an Indented & Domestic servant to the said Hyacinthe Lasselle his heirs, Exors, Admors & assigns, with him & them to dwell & serve from the day of the date hereof until the full end & term of twelve years, next ensuing the date of these presents to be fully compleat [sic] & ended; during all which term or time of twelve years, the said Polly, called Polly Strong, the said Hyacinthe Lasselle his heirs, Exors, Admors & assigns shall & will well & faithfully serve in all things appertaining to the duty of a good, honest & attentive Indented or Domestic Servant. And the said Hya. Lasselle for himself, his heirs, Exors, Admors & Assigns, doth hereby covenant, grant & agree to & with the said Polly, his servant, that he shall & will find, provide & allow unto her, during all her said term of servitude, good & wholesome meat, drink, lodging, washing & apparel, both linen & woolen, fit & convenient for such a servant. And she serving out her time quietly & faithfully shall & will give unto her Thirty dollars in wearing apparel at the expiration thereof.

In witness whereof, the said Master & servant have hereto set their hands & seals, at Knox County, this 16th of July A.D. 1818

	her	
Witness	Polly X Strong	(Seal)
	mark	
Samuel Roquest		
His	H. Lasselle	(Seal)
John B. X		

Personally appears before me One of the Justices Assigned to keep the peace for the County of Knox, the subscribers to the foregoing instrument of writing, Polly Strong & Hyacinthe Lasselle, and acknowledged the same to be their voluntary acts and deeds for the purpose therein contained. Given under my hand & Seal, this sixteenth day of July in the year

of our lord, One thousand eight hundred and Eighteen

H. M. Gilham J.P.K.C.

Which are the several & respective causes of the caption
and detention of the said Polly and James. Wherefore your respondent prays your Honor
that he may be hence dismissed, with his reasonable costs, etc.

August 4th

1818

H. Laselle

105

Hab. Corpus

—

Retble before the Honble.

Tho. H. Blake. On

Tues. 4th Aug. 1818

—

James & Polly

Persons of colour

vs.

and

Hya. Lasselle

Return

State of Indiana

vs.

Hyacinthe Laselle

Hab. Corps.

I allow this writ

Tho. H. Blake

Pres. Judge

[along right side of page:]

Delivered me by Seneca Almy, the 17th July 1818 at half past 9 O'C. a.m.

Hya. Laselle